




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

December 9, 2009

TO: All ADSA Staff and ADSA Stakeholders

FROM: Kathy Leitch, Assistant Secretary
Aging and Disability Services Administration 

SUBJECT: **Governor's 2010 Supplemental Budget Proposal**

Today Governor Christine Gregoire released her proposed 2010 Supplemental Budget. She was faced with extremely difficult decisions in meeting her obligation to produce a budget within the limits of declining projected revenues. The Governor has been clear that she believes her proposed budget contains forced choices that do not match her personal values or the values of most Washingtonians. I am sure many will share that sentiment in relation to the impact on ADSA's service system.

At this time a year ago, I reminded you of the core values on which ADSA's nationally recognized model was built. Within resources, we have tried to:

1. Prioritize support for the most vulnerable.
2. Support what individuals and their families can do for themselves.
3. Prioritize a consumer-driven system and keep individuals in their home or community-based environment for as long as possible.
4. Provide supports that are appropriate for an individual, at the right time, and the right amount.

The state's projected budget picture now includes a \$2.6 billion shortfall beyond what was addressed last session. ADSA's portion of the Governor's budget includes additional cuts totaling \$177 million to a budget that has already been trimmed several times since the recession began. It also includes approximately \$40 million in additional funding, mostly for maintenance level items and additional waiver placements for clients with developmental disabilities. As I warned in my letter to you of October 28, 2009, additional reductions in ADSA would have to come from a relatively narrow slice of our overall budget and would unavoidably affect clients. Unfortunately, those predictions were accurate and as a result there is little choice within existing revenues beyond deeper service and rate cuts. There is simply no way to reach that level of additional change on top of the reductions taken last session without stepping back from the progress we have made in supporting senior citizens and people with disabilities, based on our long-standing core values.



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A summary of the reductions that affect ADSA can be found in the first attachment to this document. The details of the Governor's proposals can be found at:

<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/budget10/default.asp>. ADSA's information can be found at
<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/budget10/recsum/rsprint.pdf> (pages 91-95, DDD; pages 96-100 LTC).

In addition, to enable families of children with developmental disabilities to avoid out of home placements and reduce Washington's institutional footprint in DDD services, the Governor has proposed the closure of Frances Haddon Morgan Center and one cottage at Rainier School by June, 2011. The move is part of her plan to reform how people with developmental disabilities are supported in Washington, which also targets closure of Rainier by June, 2014. The link to her policy briefing on this subject is located at

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/reform/facclosureDDD.pdf>. The second attachment to this document is a memorandum I sent to the Division of Developmental Disabilities staff that summarizes that part of her supplemental budget proposal.

Because of her dissatisfaction with an "all-cuts" budget, the Governor has said she will develop a second budget that combines reductions and a plan for new revenues. She wants to restore funding for what she calls "essential things"; developmental disability and long-term care services as well as adult medical, dental, vision and hospice programs.

As you know, discussions move to the legislature in January. I will continue my commitment to provide updated information as major milestones in the process are reached. I want to thank staff for their professionalism and hard work during these challenging financial times and extend a note of appreciation to ADSA Stakeholders who work hard to advocate for the interests of people with disabilities.

Attachments (2)